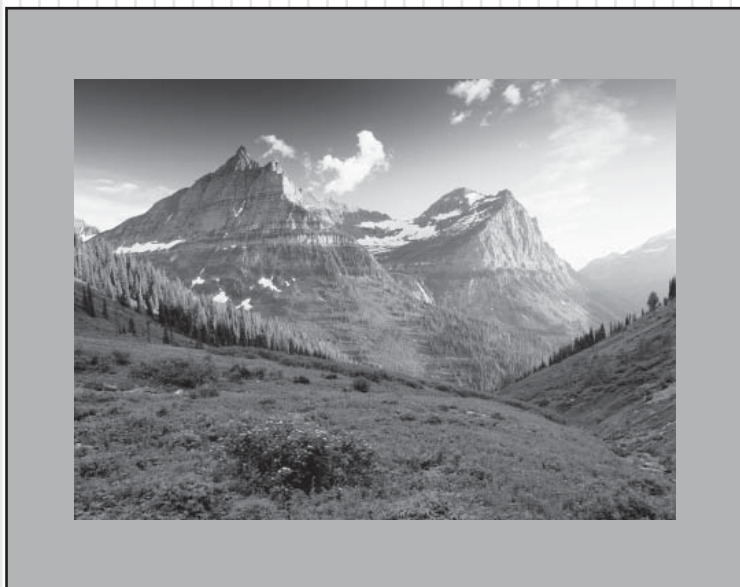


Montana
Comprehensive Assessment
System (MontCAS, Phase 2)
Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 8

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Reading Session 3

Read this passage about Billy Mills, who won an Olympic gold medal and set a new world record at the Olympic Games in 1964. Then answer the questions that follow.

Billy Mills **Oglala Lakota Olympic Athlete**

Susan Avery and Linda Skinner

At the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, an unknown American distance runner, an Oglala Lakota named Billy Mills, set a world's record in the 10,000-meter race. It was a spectacular upset—one of the most memorable victories in the history of international athletic competition.

Television cameras followed thirty-six of the world's best runners as they competed for the gold. Just as the runners neared the homestretch, one accidentally bumped into Billy Mills, causing him to fall back. In an incredible recovery, Billy pulled back up and then ahead of the others to win. Setting a new record time, Billy Mills became the first and only American to win an Olympic gold medal in this event. The drive and determination that made him a champion in 1964 are still with him today, channeled into other activities. Billy Mills travels to Indian communities across the country to inspire young people and encourage physical fitness, pride, and self-reliance. He has learned from his own experiences about the need for such messages.

Billy Mills was born on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He and his seven brothers and sisters were orphaned when he was twelve. Left without much money, Billy was sent away to a government boarding school for Indians. He attended high school at the Haskell Institute in Kansas, where he discovered running. Because of his athletic abilities, he won a full scholarship to the University of Kansas.

After graduating with a degree in education, Mills joined the Marines. For a while, he didn't give much thought to competitive running. However, when people began encouraging him to run, he began to train seriously. He qualified for the Olympic trials, and from there ran to his astonishing victory in Tokyo.

Billy was admired by young American Indians. The Lakota honored him with ceremonies and gifts, including a special ring made of gold from the Black Hills—an area that the Lakota, Dakota, and Cheyenne hold sacred. He still wears the ring. Billy recalls that when he received the ring, a Lakota chief reminded him that with his achievement and good fortune came a responsibility to give back something in return. Since then, he has tried to meet that responsibility.

Billy continued to run competitively for several years after Tokyo, and he set other track records. But when the team for the next Olympic Games was selected, injuries and disagreements about his eligibility edged him out of a slot. Although the spotlight of publicity was fading, Billy Mills was still in demand for public appearances. Besides making public appearances, however, Billy also was

establishing himself in the insurance business. He briefly took a job with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, speaking to Indian students in government schools, but decided that he could be more effective on his own. As his athletic career wound down, he focused more on his insurance business and being an independent advocate for Indian interests and physical fitness.

Billy is now president of Billy Mills Enterprises, a thriving California insurance and public relations firm. In the course of his speaking activities over the years, he has visited nearly every reservation and urban Indian community in the country. He listens to people and shares lessons he has learned in his own life. His talks are meant to support and inspire people and encourage them to pursue better opportunities in their lives. Physical fitness, as a means of understanding oneself, is a central theme in all of his speeches.

In 1983, Billy's story was made into an award-winning movie, *Running Brave*. Billy thinks of it as a small part of what he can give in return for the opportunities he was given on the road to his success.

Billy Mills breaks an Olympic record at the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.



81. How did Billy Mills use his own experiences to inspire young American Indians? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how Billy Mills used his own experiences to inspire young American Indians. Explanation includes specific, relevant information from the passage.
3	Response provides an explanation of how Billy Mills used his own experiences to inspire young American Indians. Explanation includes supporting information from the passage, but lacks specificity, relevance, and/or development.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how Billy Mills used his own experiences to inspire young American Indians. Explanation includes limited information from the passage and/or is partially correct.
1	Response makes a vague or minimal statement about how Billy Mills used his own experiences to inspire young American Indians.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Scoring Notes

- Billy Mills was orphaned as a child and sent away to a government boarding school.
- He was able to use his ability and interest in running to attain a college scholarship.
- He went on to win a gold medal in the Olympics despite being bumped during the race and went on to receive many honors.
- Billy Mills resolved to help the young people by encouraging them to use physical fitness as a positive force, and by speaking to them about how they could achieve success through pride and self-reliance.
- He approached his mission to help young people—and to “give back” to his community—with the same determination he had for his own achievements.

Using his own experiences, Billy Mills inspired young American Indians in various ways. One experience would be how he went to the 1964 Olympic games in Tokyo and set a new time record, and also became the first and only American to win a gold medal in the event. Winning that event gave Billy the opportunity to talk to young American Indians and to encourage them to stay physically fit so they can have better opportunities in life from it. Second, another experience that inspired young American Indians was getting a good education and self-reliance. Billy became an independent advocate for Indian interests and physical fitness, plus he has his own insurance business. He never would've been able to get where he was if he didn't get a good education or if he just relied on other people to make his decisions for him. Billy Mills used his own experiences to inspire young American Indians in many ways.

In the passage "Billy Mills Oglala Lakota Olympic Athlete" Billy uses his own experiences to inspire young American Indians. First, he does this by winning the 10,000-meter race in the 1964 Olympic Games. This event inspires young Indians to be an athlete like him. Secondly, he finds it's important to go to the Reservations and speak with the kids. He teaches them to pursue your goals and physical fitness to better understand ones self. He does this by relating to his own life lessons. This is how Billy Mills inspires young American Indians with his own experiences.

Billy Mills used his own experiences to inspire young American Indians. He would tell them about all of his accomplishments that he has had with his career and in his business. He also would tell them about what he has learned from some of his mistakes that he has learned from and what he has done from learning from his mistakes in his life. Another thing that he might have told them would be about some of the races he has won and what he learned from that and about some of the races he has lost and what he has learned from those races. He tells them about his life.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

Billy Mills inspired young American Indians because he made it to the Olympics, and won. He talked at many schools and encouraged kids to stay fit. He also encouraged many kids to follow their dreams. Billy Mills achieved so much, and the young American Indians looked up to that.

Score Point 1

he Told how he thought being Physically fit was important, and that they should Pursue the Passions.

Billy mills could probly
Jump a two meters
dash to inspire the young
American Indians.

Acknowledgments

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